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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,846	07/01/2003	Mark Schmidt	108-194USAND0	2761

7590 11/29/2006
Thomas J. Perkowski, Esq., P.C.
Soundview Plaza
1266 East Main Street
Stamford, CT 06902

EXAMINER

KIM, AHSHIK

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,846

Applicant(s)

SCHMIDT ET AL.

Examiner

Ahshik Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/16/06 (RCE/Amdt).
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 97-100 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 97-100 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in
5 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is
eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)
has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to
37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 16, 2006 has been entered.

Amendment

10 2. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed on October 16, 2006. Currently, claims
97-100 remain in the examination.

Specification

15 3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In RELATED CASES

Some applications have been issued as a US patent. For example, US Application
10/342,343 is now a US Patent 7,028,904. Applicant is required to update all the related case
information to the extent possible.

20 4. The lengthy specification and a large number of drawings has not been checked to the
extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation
is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

5 (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10 6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out
15 the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 97-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 6,415,982, previously cited, hereinafter Bridgelall) in view of Wike, Jr. et al. (US 5,256,865,
20 previously cited, hereinafter "Wike").

Bridgelall discloses a two-dimensional barcode reader (col. 1, lines 35+; col. 2, lines 37+) which functions in automatic manner (col. 4, lines 35+) comprising a decoder (col. 1, lines 57+), a bar code symbol data detector (col. 3, lines 34+) and audible sign (col. 3, lines 16+) indicating successful read of the data, and a data transmission component (see abstract) transceiving the
25 data with a host machine. The reader can incorporate radio frequency tag (col. 4, lines 22+) or infrared in object detection or wireless communication (col. 10, lines 37+).

Bridgelall, however, fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest that the reader is further comprised of an object detection subsystem utilizing infrared (IR) signal and detectors.

Wike discloses an automatic sensing and programming circuit for optical scanners (see abstract). Wike further discloses utilizing infrared (IR) in item detection component (col. 2, lines 34-44).

In view of Wike's teaching, it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate well-known infrared item detection component to the teachings of Bridgelall in order to conserve power and reduces unwanted operation of the scanner. Many optical scanners are turned on perpetually, so that the items can be scanned any time. Such scanners often use sleeping mode and operating mode; and switching to either mode is often determined by the signal from the item detector. Accordingly, incorporating IR object detection subsystem is well within one ordinary skill in the art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Ahshik Kim* whose telephone number is (571)272-2393. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 6:00AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571)272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571)273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [ahshik.kim@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly

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signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

5 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications
may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished
application is available for Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system,
see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions or access to the Private PAIR
10 system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ahshik Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876
November 22, 2006

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